



Religious and cultural differences and youth of India in “*The Novels of Chetan Bhagat*”

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Abstract

Chetan Bhagat is one of the finest writers of English literature in India. Almost all his works have been acknowledged as the most selling novels. One of the leading newspaper has cited him as “the biggest selling English language novelist in India’s history.” He is a multitalented personality as he is a writer, columnist, television personality and a motivational speaker. His most of the works concentrated on the problems of youth. Perhaps that is why he is very famous amount today’s youth. There is one more reason for his works to be famous among youth is that his writing is very simple, expressing his views and emotions in straight English sentences with easy vocabulary. He connects well with the youth and their problems. From his first work only he created a buzz and made his presence felt.

Keywords: novels of Chetan Bhagat, youth of India

Introduction

His first novel was Five Point Someone. From the very first novel his concern was the problems and dilemma of youths’ mind. This novel exposes the dark side of the Indian education system. There are three main characters who study in one of the leading IIT College. The problem shown is that everybody, from professors to students, is only concerned about the percentage they get in exams. There is no focus on real professional training where they can get educated on the working and technicality of machines. Only students are bound to get as much as percentage they can and in the process they only theories and learn books and their actual understanding is zero. The story blatantly exposes the shortcomings in our education system and the youth is only running behind the good marks to get a good job, which can give them good economic benefits. In this race to get a good job parents pressurize them to get admissions in renowned colleges. Parents also do this to show their respect in the society that their wards are getting training in a reputed institution whereas students have to give up and sacrifice their real talent and dream. Students have to kill their dreams for the sake of their parents who have so many sacrifices for them to get them a job in a reputed firm.

His second novel was One Night @ the Call Center. This is a story about six people who work in the call center. The novel also exposes the problems arising in a private working environment where there is a race among all the employees who will prove his worth and get most of the remuneration and rewards. Being in the race one has to cheat and play dirty games to be an apple of the eye of the employer to secure one’s job. The story shows how younger generation is being used for a small penny. People start working in the IT sector early in their lives just to have a pocket money and to live by their own. The story also reflects the love in the hearts of young but they are so helpless and facing difficulties in all front that they have to sacrifice their love. They sacrifice their love as they choose better career options. So one can understand the pressure on today’s generation.

In 2009 he released his new book named, Two States: The Story of My Marriage. The story sheds some light on Chetan’s own college life, love and marriage. Where his earlier novels focused on the profession and career choices of young generation keeping the feeling of love and emotions at the backseat, this novel takes a U-turn where youth is ready to fight and struggle hard to get their love and get married with the person whom they are in love with. The novel creates a lighter funny moments with small incidences of the families of two as they come from different parts of India. Girl’s family is a hardcore Tamil Brahmin and boy’s family is of Punjabi origin. Their cultures and basic thoughts are like two poles apart like south and north poles. They indulge in fights on petty issues. Nevertheless, for boy and girl these things do not matter as they love each other very much. Boy struggles to get his girl. To impress the family of the girl, he leaves a good offer in Delhi and joins in a firm in Kerala. He helps the girl’s parents and brother to get them out of their tough times. Here one thing is notable that people follow their religions strictly.

Dr. Sapna Tiwari states in her own words in IJELLH paper that “*History reveals that religious and cultural different times of our country played a very negative role and now let us trust the responsibility of maintaining communal harmony to youths of our country. Ours is a land of various religions and culture and three differences of them cave a hatred and bitterness among the followers of different religions. Youth can bring a positive change in controlling unrest caved by the religious bitterness of different religions. Youth may awaken the nation so that every person becomes a true nation of our country. Our country should identify the causes of unrest among youth and take enormous efforts to dispel this.*

As the name suggests, this is a story of two young couple who belong to two different states of India. The male protagonist is a Punjabi guy however female belongs to southern state, Kerala. She is a Tamilian girl who follows her tradition and her parents are orthodox. The best part of

the novel is that it pinpoints the culture and the way of living of two religions in an amusing and humorous way without hurting the sentiments of any of the followers.

Conclusion

Youth is the investment of a nation who takes the legacy and the culture forward and represents one's nation in the world. Their energy, determination and focus build the tomorrow. Keeping that in mind Chetan Bhagat's novels explores the personal and professional aspects of our youth. His novels and articles are famous because they not only focus on the problems and glitches of young generation but then he also gives suggestions on how to come out these hard-hitting situations. Like in the novel Five Point Someone where exposes the problems in our professional degree courses then he also comes up with the solution and suggestion that how can our education system be improved. He says that our professors can guide and concentrate on providing practical knowledge and training which in turn will help students to build their career. Our country is a multi-religious state where followers of different religions and beliefs live. We have to face the ugly truth of religious riots now and then. Here our younger generation plays a significant role in bringing together followers of different religion. That country can never progress and achieve its goal unless their people are calm, satisfied and united.

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